

PUBLIC

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10 February 2009

Further Information on UA 342/08 (EUR 46/031/2008, 12 December 2008) Torture/ill-treatment/health concern/non-provision of medical care/intimidation/harassment

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Zubair Isaevich Zubairaev (m), aged about 30

The health of Zubair Isaevich Zubairaev, a Chechen imprisoned in Volgograd, southern Russia, has deteriorated. Sources close to him report that he has lost weight, has back pain, and stomach pains which may be caused by an ulcer. In addition, the wounds on his legs from previous alleged beatings and torture are not healing. Zubair Zubairaev is not receiving adequate medical care. The authorities at the prison colony where he is held do not provide any medication, and do not pass on the expensive medicines that his family members buy for him. Reports suggest that he is still being beaten, and has been threatened. His life may be in danger.

Officials at the prison, as well as an official from the Volgograd Public Prosecutor's office, are said to have verbally threatened Zubair Zubairaev that if he does not stop complaining about his treatment in detention, his prison sentence will be extended or he might "accidentally" die in prison. They also threatened his family, saying "something might happen" to his sisters.

In August 2007 Zubair Zubairaev was sentenced to five years in a high security prison and sent to prison colony IAR-154/25 in Frolovo, Volgograd region. According to sources close to Zubair Zubairaev, he was tortured and otherwise ill-treated by prison colony officers throughout the period he was held there. This included the use of electric shocks. He was also repeatedly beaten with plastic bottles filled with water, as well as with truncheons and rifle butts, until he fainted, after which guards revived him in order to continue the beatings. No medical help was provided and the injuries he received were not recorded.

After making several complaints about being tortured and ill-treated, Zubair Zubairaev was transferred to prison colony No 9 in Volgograd. In February 2008 he was admitted to prison hospital LIU-15 in Volgograd, however the beatings and other ill-treatment from the prison officers continued. Zubair Zubairaev complained again about it to the authorities. This resulted in an inspection of the prison hospital in October 2008 by the Volgograd regional prosecutor, which, however, found no fault with the prison authorities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International regularly receives reports of torture or other ill-treatment in places of detention across the Russian Federation, including in prison colonies, and of the frequent failure of the authorities to investigate effectively such allegations and to bring those found responsible to justice. In February 2007, the UN Committee against Torture expressed its concern regarding the inadequate health care provided to people in pre-trial detention centres and prison colonies.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Russian, English or your own language:

- calling for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture and threats against Zubair Zubairaev and his family; with the results made public and those found responsible brought to justice;

- expressing deep concern at reports that Zubair ZubairaeV is still not receiving the medical treatment he needs;
- urging that Zubair ZuibairaeV is examined by independent doctors and receives all necessary medical care, in accordance with provisions set out in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that he is treated humanely in detention, and not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, either physically or psychologically.

APPEALS TO:

Alexander Vladimirovich Konovalov
Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation
Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation
Ul. Zhitnaia 14
119 991 Moscow GSP1
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Fax: + 7 495 955 57 79
Salutation: Dear Minister

Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika
Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
Office of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
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125 993 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 692 1725 (fax may be switched off outside of office hours (four hours ahead of GMT))

COPIES TO:

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Miasnitskaia ul. 47
107084 Moscow
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Yurii Ivanovich Kalinin
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Leonid Leontievich Beliak
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and to diplomatic representatives of the Russian Federation accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 March 2009.